



ONW Outlook

Published for the men and women of the Combined Task Force

Incirlik AB, Turkey

A supplement to the *Tip of the Sword*

Nov. 19, 1999

Gunfighters deliver with both barrels



Staff Sgt. Larry Simmons

Senior Airman Shay Robinson, aircraft armament systems specialist connects the air intercept missile to the wing of an F-16 CJ. Robinson is assigned to the 389th Fighter Squadron, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho.

Senior Airman Renn D. Thornton Editor

When the troops from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, deploy, they deliver with both barrels.

The Mountain Home "Gunfighters" are here to assist in the enforcement of the no-fly zone over northern Iraq.

According to Lt. Col. Chris Ceplecha, 389th Fighter Squadron commander, almost two thirds of the Mountain Home force will converge on Incirlik and play a major role in the air campaign against Saddam Hussein.

Ceplecha said the environment is conducive to the overall mission.

"It's good to be able to 'no-kidding' concentrate on the mission without minimal interruption. We train a lot. Here, the maintainers and crews are able to reap the fruits of their labor when they load an ordnance aboard an aircraft, watch it take off

and land and sees it has been successfully employed when the aircraft returns."

According to base history, the 389th FS falls under the 366th Wing. It is the Air Force's premier air expeditionary wing. With the support of KC-135R Stratotankers, the wing blends the firepower of F-15C Eagles, F-15E Strike Eagles, F-16C Fighting Falcons and B-1B Lancers to form a single, cohesive aerial strike force.

What makes the 366th Wing unique is its air expeditionary mission. The wing is designed to deploy with its own command, control, computer, communications and intelligence capabilities. Rather than building a composite wing at a deployed site, the 366th Wing is a composite force already built and trained, ready to fight and intervene anytime, anywhere.

One of the primary benefits of a composite wing structure is

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Staff Sgt. Larry Simmons

Senior Airman James Otto installs FIN AGM 88.

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aircrews train with the same people they fight alongside in combat.

In a traditional wing, aircrews train with similar aircraft, except for a few annual exercises. In a composite wing, aircrews train every day under more realistic conditions, with a variety of aircraft flying multiple missions.

According to Airman 1st Class Lee Stedje, an F-16 crew chief, he finds his job extremely rewarding while deployed here.

"Part of my job is to make sure the aircraft is ready to fly. If

anything breaks, we fix it. Once the jet is airborne I know I have done my part to make sure the pilot and plane are safe."

Maintainers, munitions experts, aerospace ground equipment and fuels systems personnel deploy with the jets also, said Cepelcha.

According to Senior Airman Carl Balser, an egress systems journeyman, his job can be very rewarding.

"I have a great job. It's not hard and most of the work is done indoors. What we do is very important to the mission and we all take our responsibilities seriously. What we do affects the pilots and their ability to carry out the mission. We are all very proud of that."

This is a much better TDY, according to Balser, who has been deployed to Saudi Arabia four times.

"The best part of this TDY is being able to talk to the Turkish people and visit their . They are very friendly and hospitable."

Cepelcha said he encourages his troops to take advantage of the opportunities and experience the culture.

"Unlike other deployments, there is a unique opportunity to experience the surrounding culture and people."

While he encourages his people to enjoy themselves, Cepelcha is certain his troops understand the mission comes first.

"First and foremost, we make sure we perform the mission and do it well. That is our number one goal. Once we have accomplished that, we can relax and enjoy our surroundings."

ONW commanding general re-enlists avionics troop

Senior Airman Renni D. Thornton
Editor

While many airmen are leaving the Air Force in pursuit of civilian careers and better pay, an avionics journeyman from Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, is eagerly pursuing another four years in the Air Force.

Combined Task Force co-commander, Brig. Gen. Bob DuLaney, administered the enlistment oath to Senior Airman Eduardo "Eddie" N. Garcia in a re-enlistment ceremony Monday. Garcia said re-enlisting was not a hard decision

for him.

"If I were going to leave the Air Force, I would want to attend college full-time. I'm not ready to do that right now. I like what I do. This job can be very rewarding and I can still pursue my college degree on a part-time basis."

Garcia does not deny that the selective re-enlistment bonus he is eligible for is another reason to stay in the military. By reenlisting here, the 22-year-old Mount Shasta, Calif., native will receive a large portion of the bonus tax-free.



Staff Sgt. Larry Simmons

Brig. Gen. Bob DuLaney administers the oath to Senior Airman Eddie Garcia, 389th Avionics Squadron.



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Refuelers make air superiority a reality...

No Fuel, No Duel

Maj. Mike Young
CTF Public Affairs

For members of the 319 Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron from Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., refueling fighter jets for Operation Northern Watch is certainly not routine.

Flying the dependable, but aging KC-135Rs from Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, is a rewarding challenge for both flight crews and maintainers.

"The crews' first two weeks of their 45-day rotation are the most critical," said Maj. Pat Kiehn, deployed operations officer for the 319th. "The operation is new and everyone is energized."

"One of our biggest challenges is to ensure that the mission doesn't become routine," he said. Recently, the ONW mission had become routine, and was the furthestmost thing from the minds of all 319 EARS members.

About two weeks ago, while enforcing the northern no-fly zone, both tankers and fighters found themselves suddenly faced with bad weather and visibility of less than one mile.

When you're flying the big jets three to a group at one-mile front-to-back separation, this definitely takes the routineness out of flying, said Kiehn.

The following week some of the same tanker crews were suddenly radio-isolated with the lead tanker when a total radio failure occurred on that jet.

"When you face situations like these," Maj. Kiehn said, "you go back to your emergency procedures training." "You quickly realize that it's not so tough after all—since we train like we fight, you know what to do."

But the training is not the only factor in making the ONW tanker mission successful. The camaraderie is equally important according to Kiehn.



Photos by Maj. Mike Young
Capt. Paul Scott and 1st Lt. Traci McCabe position their tanker while refueling fighters patrolling the no-fly zone of Operation NORTHERN WATCH.

"Back home we don't have hard crews," he said. "You may fly with different crew members each time you go up." "In this environment you have the same crew partners the entire rotation." "You can become close as a crew because you learn your fellow crew members' flying habits, patterns and personalities."

You also interface more with your senior leadership than at your home unit, according to Maj. Kiehn. "Because you spend 12-plus hours a day with your crew and the unit leaders, versus the few short hours a day at home, you learn more about the people you work with."

"Since you work and play with the same people every day, you tend to have a much stronger cohesion," said Kiehn.

All the deployed members from Grand Forks are true professionals. One crew Maj. Kiehn singled out was that of Capt. Paul Scott (pilot), 1st Lt. Traci McCabe (co-pilot), and Senior Airman Jenny Little (boom

operator).

"They work extremely well as a crew—this is a prime example of how cohesion and camaraderie make for a very successful team," Maj. Kiehn said. For example, they voluntarily hosted international media representatives and numerous incentive ride passengers during their rotation. These rides have contributed to several positive stories in publications such as TIME Magazine and help to maintain good relations with the host unit at Incirlik. "This crew just returned home, but the effects of their contributions will remain."

However, Maj. Kiehn was quick to point out that the 3-member flight crews couldn't do any of this without the maintainers and all the other support functions. In the end, everyone relies on everyone else.

Without all the support units, the jets would never get off the ground, and without the tankers, they would never stay in the air.

British soldiers remember fallen heroes

At right, Royal Air Force Junior Technician Andrew Rigby, plays British reveille as wreaths are laid in remembrance of fallen comrades during a Remembrance Day ceremony held by members of the Royal Air Force at the base chapel Wednesday morning.

Members of the Royal Air Force and Combined Task Force assembled in the base chapel Wednesday morning in observance of British Remembrance Day.

For the British, the age old tradition serves as a remembrance to honor with gratitude all those who have given their lives in the cause of peace and the service of humanity.



Staff Sgt. Larry Simmons

ONW Warrior



Staff Sgt. Larry Simmons

Tech. Sgt. Louis Comus

TDY from: Grand Forks AFB, N.D.

Unit: 39th ASEC/Services

Duty title: Tent City Lodging NCOIC

Hometown: Brookston, Ind.

Family: Wife, Claudia, two sons, Kevin and Daniel

What does the job consist of? In charge of ensuring all incoming personnel have a space to live while deployed. Also provide TVs, VCRs, refrigerators, and microwaves out of the lodging tent, as well as provide linen to each deployed individual.

What do you like most about working in a combined environment? Give the different forces a chance to see how each branch works and allows us to make friends throughout all branches of service.

What do you miss most from home? My wife and two sons

What will you remember most about this TDY?

I will miss the pleasant Tent City atmosphere. Thanks to all the hard work ONW has put into making this the best tent city in existence.

Briefly

Thanksgiving meals

The Sultan's Inn Dining Hall offers a Thanksgiving meal from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday.

Menu includes shrimp cocktail, soups, roast turkey, prime rib, baked fish, ham, bread dressing, rice pilaf, marshmallowed sweet potatoes and mashed potatoes, sauces, gravies and sauces, cranberry sauce, glazed carrots, buttered green peas, salads, dinner rolls, cakes, and pies, candy, nuts and fruit. Call 6-3253 or 6-6016 for more information.